3:Watson E-4,5 (1943) 1952 SM4 Guarani SM4

133 the immense Rio Paraná some distance above its spectacular plunge over the great escarpment at Sete Quedas.

According to the meager data available on the topography of the region, the Cayuá of Mato Grosso live on plains and hilly uplands, varying between
132 some 1,000 to 1,500 feet above sea level. The climate is not often disagreeable, even for the newcomer, and has stimulating features.[80] It is characterised by a wet and a dry season. The dry season comes in the winter months, and its height is about July. For a few days during these months, although it does not snow (for lack of moisture), it is often bitterly cold, especially for the type of habitation and clothing common in the area to Indian and white alike. Occasionally in the morning the ground is covered with hoar frost. At the height of the rainy season, in December and January, the rain sometimes falls so fast that it is not readily soaked up by the ground; ponds are quickly formed in the low places, and roaring streams overflow their banks. Water holes and bogs appear during the rainy months where only dried mud was before. The frogs and other life forms seem to burst forth simultaneously. This is the growing season for the Cayuá planter.

137 The more general aspects of the flora of the region have been mentioned above in speaking of the three broad types of plant cover. The many varieties of trees to be found in their environment are the most important wild flora
[411] for the Cayuá. There are woods of extreme hardness for arrow points, flexible
[342] woods for bows, straight canes for arrow shafts,[81] *maté* trees, which the Cayuá
[417] also now use on a small scale, and many types of lianas and plants with strong, fibrous cortices for tieing, especially used in building houses and
[283] fences. The *caraguatá* cactus provides a good fiber for cordage and for certain
[342] textiles. There are numerous bushes and trees bearing wild fruits, and not to be overlooked is the *taquára*—strictly *taquarussú*—a large bamboo with long, stout, straight trunks which serve the Cayuá admirably for many purposes
[262] including construction of houses, though never for fuel. The *pindó* palm provides leaves for cover, fibers for lines, and fruit, and its heart is, or was formerly, used to make an edible pounded meal.

• 136 The fauna of the Cayuá region include deer, *capivara*, *anta* (*Tapirus americanus*, Briss.), *paca* (*Coelogenus paca*), *caitetú* (*Tajassu tajassu*, Lin.), armadilloes, coati, and various smaller mammals. Several kinds of jaguar (from Tupi-Guarani *djaguareté*) and a wild dog, the *guará* (*Canis jubatus*), also roam the woods. Among the birds are included parrots, parroqueets, toucans (Tupi-Guarani *tukã'*), vultures, several sorts of heron, and the *arapónga* (Portuguese: *Ferreiro do mato*), a never-to-be-forgotten, dull-colored little

[80] The cold of the winter seemed to annoy our Brazilian colleagues, both from warm Rio, more than the considerable heat of the summer troubled us North Americans.

[81] One of these canes, the *taquapí* (*caña de Castilla*), gives its name to Taquapiri, the village [103] studied.

3:Watson E-4,5 (1943) 1952 SM4 Guarani SM4

bird, no more than 6 or 8 inches long. He has a ringing cry for all the world like a sharp hammer blow on a piece of steel pipe, followed by sounds incredibly like a large file being applied to the same material.[8] The emu and a number of smaller field birds are common. Snakes, lizards, and frogs abound. Alligators are to be found along the larger water courses. Fish of large size are encountered only where the streams broaden out into rivers and are relatively scarce in much of the southern Mato Grosso Cayuá region. One should not forget to mention the insects. They include, besides a large-sized component of the mosquito and fly-like biting insects, fleas, foot-burrowers (*bicho de pé*), *carrapatos*, a clinging, bloodsucking bug, and numerous other representatives of the phylum Arthropoda, not by any means restricted to this part of Brazil.

It would not be in contrast to our knowledge of other primitive peoples to point out that the Cayuá know their physical environment in great and minute detail, its flora, its fauna, its weather, its water courses and topography. An indirect testimony of the extent of Cayuá nature lore is the enormous contribution of the Tupi-Guarani languages to the general Brazilian vocabulary, not only of place names, but also of the vulgar names of Brazilian plants and animals. The Cayuá have apparently lost little or none of their store of this knowledge since aboriginal times.

[8] This relatively lengthy note on the *araponga* does not reflect his importance to the Cayuá nearly so much as the amazement of the writer.